

BOOK REVIEWS

parasitology that contains many and good line drawings from other treatises on parasitology.

This reviewer feels that publishers too should exact a more critical review before committing a text to the press. The author has tried valiantly to provide an inclusive text but it is not adequate for medical or paramedical personnel nor for students preparing for such careers.

DEMOSTHENES PAPPAGIANIS, MD, PH D

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THE EFFECTS OF HOSPITALIZATION ON CHILDREN—Models for Their Care—Edited by Evelyn K. Oremland, MSW, and Jerome D. Oremland, MD, Faculty, San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute, Chairman, Extension Division, Psychoanalytic Institute, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Ill (62703), 1973. 360 pages, \$12.75.

The title of the book summarizes its contents and goals. It is based on a report of a symposium in which an impressive group of contributors from various disciplines participated. Dr. Solnit's opening address serves as the core of the book. In it he stresses the importance of careful selectivity in the choice of procedures because methods of approach and care, useful under some circumstances, may not be so when applied in the instance of hospitalized children, and may even prove detrimental. Increasingly narrowed specialization, scientific and technological advances are inevitably accompanied by dehumanization and depersonalization which increase susceptibility to psychological damage and make hospitalization more difficult for children to endure. It is commendable that due consideration is accorded the importance of developmental levels in relation to the child's capacity to deal with the hospital experience because such capacity undergoes changes with ego growth, establishment of defense mechanisms and mastery.

The need for preparation, proper timing of elective surgery and appropriate atmosphere in the hospital are all stressed in order to avoid reactions, immediate or delayed. A post-surgical program which permits working through the trauma of the surgery or hospitalization has proven desirable.

In the chapter "The Infant in the Hospital," Dr. Calvin F. Settlege presents a concise summary of psychoanalytic principles especially in relation to developmental phases. This is followed by some observations on early mother-child interaction, and the effects of hospitalization and separation on both infant and mother in the interval from birth to two years.

The book describes the special needs of adolescents in their period of transition from childhood to adulthood, and the ways in which hospitals may meet such needs. Here, too, developmental assessment rather than chronological age should be the determinant in many decisions relating to disposition and procedures, with flexibility the key to the still unsettled personality.

The section on psychological implications of transplants in children deals with touching situations in the lives of children who suffer renal failure, and their families. The relationship between them and the surgeon, and his willingness to respond to their inquiries are important. The staff also needs help in dealing with these patients and their families, and their anxieties. Several unforeseeable psychological implications and complications are discussed in detail, as well as those decisions concerning which family and patient need help. Questions of medical ethics and values, nonexistent in the pre-transplant era, now present themselves for contemplation and judgment. This part of the book was the most interesting for me.

The chapter on the dying child stresses the need to

appreciate changing developmental patterns so as to permit and even aid the child to talk about death and to ask questions about matters which he finds puzzling, and to feel reassured that he may speak freely of eventualities that many parents are unable to face. Reactions of the staff are discussed and some recommendations made to facilitate their tasks, and protect the child in such painful circumstances. Included is a moving and informative account of the experiences of a dying child and a psychologist who served as "play doctor" and coordinator for the family and caretakers.

The book also addresses itself to "Hospitalization as a Psychological Growth Experience." Ministrations which bring about a cessation of pain and symptoms, feelings of worthiness enjoyed by the child because he is the recipient of special attention, mobilization of the family around his acute needs, and the sense of mastery over the crisis of hospitalization, all have positive value. Another important use of the hospital is as a haven for children while destructive family problems and crises are being resolved. It is concluded that an interested, compatible, coordinated, interdisciplinary team can minimize the adverse effects of hospitalization on children and maximize its benefits. The ideal team is perceived as functional, nonauthoritarian and nonhierarchical; the reader is cautioned about difficulties which may beset the team. Arguments in favor of Children's Hospitals for children, despite their costliness, are presented.

The book begins promisingly with Dr. Solnit's remarks. However, with such a wide variety of contributors, a uniform quality of presentation cannot be insured, and some of the articles prove disappointing. Anticipated answers are not forthcoming, possibly because insufficient time has elapsed to permit accumulation of adequate scientific and validated data. As Dr. Errante says, "The teams must develop more scientifically. Theory and anecdotes do not provide a solid enough base for major changes in health care organizations."

The number of individuals and specialties included in the team becomes overwhelming, and the very inconsistencies and fragmentation which it seeks to abolish become inevitable accompaniments of its existence. Perhaps one of the important purposes served by the book is its presentation of a model, albeit diffuse and too inclusive, to serve as a prototype to be chipped and chiseled into a wieldy, practical and useful entity.

I recommend the book to all who participate or have an interest in the care of children. It is informative and provocative, reads pleasantly and easily and represents the best thinking available at present.

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HEROIN ADDICTION IN BRITAIN—What Americans Can Learn from the English Experience—Horace Freeland Judson. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York City (10017), 1974. 200 pages, \$6.95.

I read Horace Judson's book *Heroin Addiction in Britain: What Americans Can Learn from the English Experience*, with enthusiasm and anticipation. Unfortunately, I was somewhat disappointed after completing the book. My enthusiasm was generated by the fact that I had read his previous articles on the British system of heroin maintenance which were published in *The New Yorker* in September-October of 1973 just prior to a Drug Abuse Council sponsored trip that I took to England. I found at that time, that his writing style was typical of science writers and extremely informative. The articles that he wrote in *The New Yorker* were excellent preparation for my visit to England and my tour of their